



DETROIT WALDORF SCHOOL

FREE THINKING
SINCE 1966

History of 2555 Burns

The Detroit Waldorf School, located in historic Indian Village, was designed by internationally renowned architect, **Albert Kahn**. The north-facing wing was built in 1913, followed by the south wing in 1923. DWS has cared for and maintained our building since its acquisition in 1965, retaining many of the qualities which distinguish it as a representative example of Kahn's design aesthetic. The building features a sleek slate roof, coved ceilings, and natural designs throughout. Classrooms are bright and colorful, and Waldorf inspired details can be found around every corner. **DWS is the last standing Albert Kahn-designed school in the world.**



Inspiration

One of the key inspirations for designing our outdoor classroom structures were the fresh air classrooms created during the 1918 pandemic.

Historic precedents:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/nyregion/coronavirus-nyc-schools-reopening-outdoors.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2020/09/14/open-air-schools-outdoor-coronavirus/>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/history-outdoor-schooling-180975696/>

<https://www.history.com/news/school-outside-tuberculosis>



Breaking Ground

From the onset of this project, community was at the heart. Teachers, students, parents, grandparents, and community members came together to design and build these outdoor classroom cedar structures.



PR About DWS Outdoor Classrooms

- <https://www.secondwavemedia.com/metromode/features/detroit-waldorf-school.aspx>
- <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/education/tents-yurts-snowsuits-schools-seeking-alternativess-remote-learning-move-classes-n1235809>
- <https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2020/08/20/detroit-school-prepares-for-in-person-learning-by-adding-5000-square-feet-in-outdoor-classrooms/>



"Outdoor education has always been at the heart of our educational philosophy and the outdoor classrooms enhance the quality of education for our students in numerous ways. The study of botany, gardening, local geography, environmental justice, and the central Waldorf tenant of observing the rhythms of the natural world, are fully embraced by learning outside."



Benefits

- Outdoor learning is proven to benefit student mental health and academic performance.
- Learning outdoors helps develop a sense of place and civic attitudes and behaviors.
- Outdoor education and these outdoor structures engage families and the greater community.





Enriched learning experiences



Community Partnerships

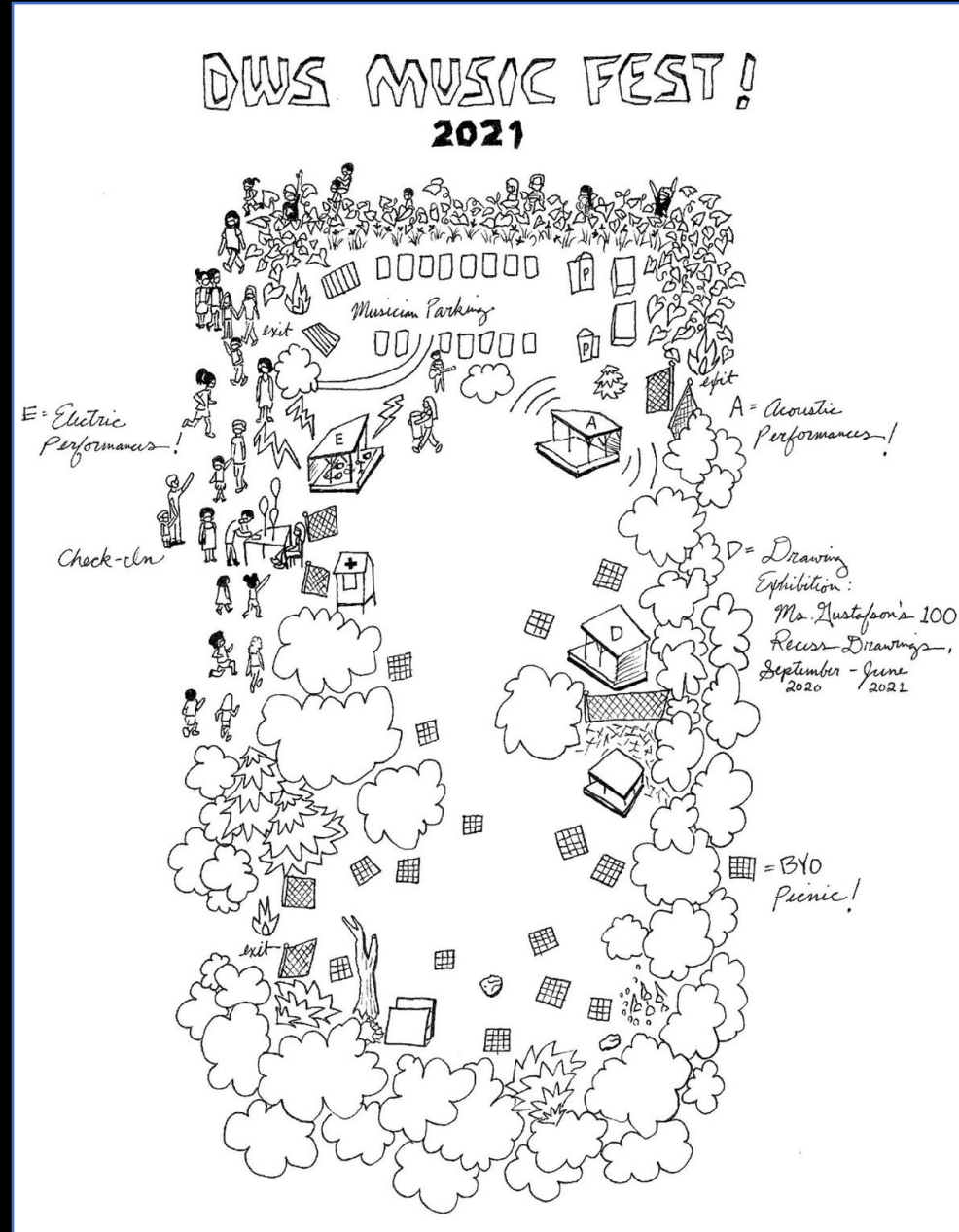
The shelters have already inspired new partnerships and engaged many in the Detroit community, and their potential for future community impact is without limit. In summer 2021, Mosaic Youth Theatre hosted their summer camp in our outdoor classroom structures. We plan to continue this partnership in future summers.



Community Music Festival

DWS Outdoor Classrooms offer beautiful and collaborative spaces for student and community performances

In Summer 2021, DWS hosted our inaugural Music Festival in our outdoor classroom structures. DWS community members performed tunes, danced, recited poems, and celebrated being together. We plan to host this event again this summer for our families and surrounding Detroit community.



April 2022 Storytelling Festival using the outdoor classrooms

DWS utilizes the outdoor spaces to engage with the Detroit community. On April 30, 2022, Detroit Waldorf School's DEI committee is hosting its inaugural Storytelling Festival which is free and open to the public.

Community Partners for the event:

- Mosaic
- Ruth Ellis Center
- Detroit Disability Power
- Detroit Pizza
- Cold Truth
- Shakespeare in Detroit
- Inside Out

"We feel the most alive when we are connecting with others and sharing our stories." -Brene Brown

Storytelling Festival

Saturday, April 30 12-4pm
at Detroit Waldorf School

We invite you to join us in our outdoor classrooms for an afternoon of storytelling featuring:

Ruth Ellis Center
Detroit Disability Power
Shakespeare in Detroit
Inside Out Literary Arts
DWS Teacher Simone Shurney
Andaiya Spencer
EradaJere Oleita
Jatu Gray
Jennine Spencer
DWS Middle School Students

Artwork by DWS student
Kameron Young

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Future Community Engagement

DWS plans to utilize the outdoor structures to increase community engagement and serve our Detroit neighbors and community. Below are several of our future plans:

- Musical and theatre performances
- Art shows
- Community markets
- Winter Fairs
- Public engagements with community leaders and citizens
- Nonprofit partnerships
- Community Festivals
- School collaborations
- Create additional revenue streams for our school and partners



A scenic view of a park. In the foreground, a large tree with thick, dark branches is covered in light pink blossoms. Below the tree, there are green bushes with a light dusting of snow. A white picket fence runs across the middle ground. In the background, there is a wooden gazebo with a flat roof, and other trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage. A house with a blue roof is visible on the right side. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Thank You